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EVERGREEN MANOR
GROUNDWATER CONTAMINATION SITE

PUBLIC MEETING

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The North Suburban District Public Library
5562 Clayton Circle
Roscoe, Illinois
November 17, 1998

The meeting commenced at 7:05 p.m.

REPORTER: Tina M. Thompson,
Midwest Professional Reporting
916 North Church Street
Rockford, Illinois

1 MS. POPE: Hi, everybody. Good evening,
2 everybody. My name is Janet Pope and I work for the
3 U.S. Environmental Protective Agency and I'm the
4 community involvement coordinator. Tonight we are
5 here to discuss some of the things about Evergreen
6 Manor, the groundwater contamination site with you.
7 Today also here from the U.S. EPA, and if you can
8 stand up, is Jan Loughlin, the attorney for the
9 case. Then we have Jan Pels. We also have
10 Mike Ribordy who is the remedial project manager for
11 the case. From the Illinois Environmental
12 Protection Agency we have Stan Black. We also have
13 Jerry Wilman. From the public health department we
14 have Roger Ruden and Steve Johnson back there. To
15 my right here is the court reporter. Her name is
16 Tina Thompson. And she'll be recording this meeting
17 in its entirety tonight. We highly encourage you to
18 send in your comments. We have a public comment
19 period that goes from November 10 to December 10.
20 So we highly encourage you to send in your comments
21 regarding this meeting tonight or either just your
22 comments on the groundwater contamination
23 alternatives.

24 Also at this time I would like to go over

1 the agenda. On the agenda tonight we have the
2 introduction. That's what I'm doing now. We have
3 the history of the Evergreen Manor site which will
4 be done by IEPA, Stan Black and Jerry Wilman. Then
5 we have an overview called the EE/CA, what we call
6 the engineering overview cost analysis by Mike.
7 Then we have the status of the site by Mike Ribordy.
8 After that we have the question and answer period.
9 At that time you can ask questions and get answers
10 for your questions, but after that we have a comment
11 period. During the comment period you can ask
12 questions in a statement, question or whatever, but
13 we would not respond to your questions at that time.
14 The questions would be responded to in what we call
15 a responsiveness summary which we'll get in -- the
16 transcript in about three to four weeks. And that
17 will be available at that time in the library for
18 you to review. If you would like a copy of the
19 responsiveness summary, please just pull me to the
20 side after the meeting and let me know your name and
21 I will be sure to get you a copy of it. Then after
22 that we'll adjourn.

23 At this time we'll go to Mike.

24 MR. WILMAN: You might want to mention

1 there's a file being kept in the library.

2 MS. POPE: We also have an information
3 repository that's kept in this library, and it has
4 all the information regarding the site, technical
5 information, just all kinds of administrative
6 orders, just all kinds of information that will be
7 really interesting for you to read up on the site.
8 So that's here at the library. Also we have one at
9 our office at 77 West Jackson Boulevard. So feel
10 free if you need any information either come here,
11 either call me or Mike and we can send the
12 information to you.

13 MR. BLACK: I guess you'll find it more
14 convenient for you to come here to the library than
15 to come down to the Chicago U.S. EPA.

16 MS. POPE: At this time we'll have the
17 history of Evergreen Manor site by Stan Black.

18 MR. BLACK: Actually I know a number of
19 you here. I recognize some of you when you came in
20 and others I have spoken with you. Again my name is
21 Stan Black. I work with the Illinois Environmental
22 Protection Agency. And thanks to Roger Ruden's
23 referral to me and contacts with me when this site
24 was first discovered, when the contamination in some

1 of the wells was first discovered, I kind of got
2 dragged into this site from Square One almost from
3 the very beginning. So I was asked to just give a
4 brief overview of the developments and where we've
5 come, how we've come to where we are today just
6 before we go too much further, but I think many of
7 you will already know these events, will know the
8 train of events, but since I've had contacts from
9 people who were relatively recent newcomers to the
10 neighborhood I thought it would be worthwhile to
11 kind of go over things in a very brief layout.

12 In November of 1990 the Illinois
13 Department of Public Health under Roger Ruden and
14 his program sampled a private residential well in
15 Evergreen Manor and discovered that there were what
16 we call VOCs or volatile organic contaminants in the
17 water of that well. Based on Roger Ruden's concern
18 and the fact that his program was designed to try to
19 help protect people from these kinds of problems,
20 public health sampled over a 100 private residential
21 wells over the next year between December of 1990
22 and approximately December of 1991. And the data
23 from that sampling was forwarded to Illinois EPA and
24 to the U.S. EPA. The chemicals of concern from

1 those samples turned out to be primarily
2 trichloroethane. That's a well-known and very
3 common industrial solvent and the various breakdown
4 products from that that are usually found in
5 connection with that chemical. The concentrations
6 that were found during the sampling did not exceed
7 U.S. EPA's removal action level, and the reason that
8 was bad news in a way is that that meant that the
9 U.S. EPA could not take any immediate action based
10 on the chemicals that were found at the -- the
11 concentrations that were found in people's wells.
12 If the level had been much higher than they actually
13 were found to be, the U.S. EPA would have acted back
14 in 1991 and we wouldn't be here tonight.

15 In August of 1991 the site was added to
16 surplus which is U.S. EPA's list of potential
17 hazardous waste sites or hazardous contamination
18 waste sites. In January of 1992 the Illinois EPA
19 completed what's called a preliminary assessment
20 report and supplied that to the U.S. EPA. That's
21 the first stage in the Superfund scoring process.
22 And that was completed in 1992. Then early in 1992
23 IEPA sampled private residential wells in the
24 Evergreen Manor area. A U.S. EPA contractor was

1 also brought in to do what's called soil gas
2 sampling which is a way of determining what kinds of
3 volatile organic chemical contamination might be
4 down in the groundwater under the surface of the
5 soil. And again this was in an effort to determine
6 the source of the contaminants that had been found
7 moving into the residential areas. About 22 gas
8 samples were taken during the sampling and about
9 four groundwater samples were taken. And then in
10 July 1992 the U.S. EPA approved Illinois EPA's
11 second big report on the site which is called the
12 site inspection report. That's the second stage of
13 the Superfund scoring process. Again that was based
14 on the private well samples and the soil gas results
15 that were done in 1992.

16 In November of 1993 through June of 1994
17 the Illinois EPA sampled more than 200 private
18 residential wells in the three -- well, actually
19 four potentially affected subdivisions. And we were
20 able as a result of that to completely map the area
21 of groundwater contamination to know every private
22 residential well that was potentially affected or
23 was affected by the contamination, and we had in --
24 as of June of 1994 we had a complete map of the area

1 that was then affected by the contamination. I've
2 had many, many, many calls. Some of you probably
3 have called and talked to me about whether your home
4 was affected or not and I have been able to talk to
5 you about that. Some people who bought property in
6 the area have called and been wondering whether
7 their homes were affected or not. So we've had the
8 data from that point to know where the contamination
9 was.

10 Starting in December of 1993 the
11 Illinois EPA proceeded to install 20 monitoring
12 wells. These are not drinking water wells. They're
13 wells that are put in to try to determine the source
14 of the contamination. Again we were trying to
15 locate where the contaminant was coming from. And
16 we sampled those wells in the spring of 1994. In
17 the fall of 1994 we installed an additional four
18 monitoring wells, and again in the winter of '94-95
19 we did another complete sampling of those wells.

20 Again we are searching for the source of
21 the contamination plume to see if we could find a
22 responsible party to be able to get them to take
23 action to help people whose wells were affected. In
24 1995-96 the Illinois EPA had contacts with a number

1 of companies or representatives of former companies
2 that we thought might have been the source of these
3 contaminants that we were finding. We were unable
4 to obtain voluntary action by any of those parties.
5 And in April of 1997 the Illinois EPA started
6 preparing a formal Superfund scoring package.

7 Again we had been unable to get voluntary
8 action by any party to assist in the effort to solve
9 this problem. So we had to go to the formal
10 Superfund scoring process. In September of 1997
11 Governor Edgar signed a letter of approval approving
12 IEPA's proposal of Evergreen Manor for the MPL.
13 That's a required step in the process the Governor
14 has to approve. And in December of 1997, that was
15 last December, Illinois EPA did refer the site to
16 U.S. EPA for federal enforcement action. And then I
17 guess we can -- actually I wanted to have our
18 project manager, Jerry Wilman, present some of the
19 data to give you an idea of what has been happening
20 on the sampling, the actual results of the sampling
21 at private wells over the period of time that I have
22 just spoken about.

23 MR. WILMAN: This (indicating) was the
24 table that I put together for my bosses a while back

1 and hopefully you guys can read it and I can make
2 some sense out of it for you folks. What we got
3 here is showing the private well samples, and as
4 Stan said the Illinois Department of Public Health
5 went out in 1990 and '91. These columns here
6 (indicating) are the three main contaminants that we
7 were seeing out there. TCE stands for
8 trichloroethane. PCE stands for dichloroethane.
9 And 1,1 PCE stands for 1,1-dichloroethane. And
10 those were the three primary contaminants that we
11 were finding in the private wells during 1990 and
12 1991. And here you see 90.9, that's ppb, parts per
13 billion. Now that's the highest level that the
14 Illinois Department of Public Health found in either
15 1990 or 1991. Now that's the highest level of
16 trichloroethane. And you can see in the red here I
17 have MCL. That stands for maximum contaminant
18 level. That's a level set up by the U.S. EPA under
19 the Safe Drinking Water Act, and that level is set
20 up for city departments who clean water supplies and
21 then supply them to private homes. Basically like
22 the North --

23 MR. RIBORDY: North Park.

24 MR. WILMAN: North Park, yes. They are

1 required to meet the MCL of five parts per billion.
2 Five parts per billion for PCE and seven parts per
3 billion of DCE. And you can see in 1990 the highest
4 level we found was 90.9 as compared to five. So
5 that was a major concern which is why we continued
6 to go out there and sample, and we tried to find a
7 well in the subdivisions that had a level high
8 enough that we could get the U.S. EPA to come out
9 and do something immediately. And as Stan said we
10 could not find a level like that. So we went ahead
11 and tried to investigate the site further and find a
12 potentially responsible party who may have caused
13 the contamination to get you folks some cleaner
14 water. And that's what -- 11/93 or 1994 Illinois
15 EPA went out and sampled. You can see here the
16 maximum that we found at the time was 40 parts per
17 billion. Still above five parts per billion TCE
18 which is the MCL, but yet less than 90. So that
19 gave us a little bit of indication that the levels
20 might be dropping out there.

21 The next table down here you see
22 monitoring well samples, and what we did as Stan
23 said north of the subdivisions we followed the
24 groundwater flow gradient. It flows in a

1 southwesterly direction towards the Rock River. And
2 so we followed it basically upwards to see where the
3 contamination might be coming from, and we installed
4 monitoring wells to do that at about the same depth
5 of which your private drinking water wells are.
6 What we found -- the highest level we found in March
7 of 1994 was 15 parts per billion. And again we'll
8 compare that to the MCL of five. Still above, but
9 what we noticed was northeast of the subdivisions we
10 found levels that were less than what we were
11 actually finding within the subdivisions, which gave
12 us an indication that maybe the levels might be
13 dropping sometime in the future within the
14 subdivisions.

15 Again in February of 1995 we went out and
16 you can see we found similar results again for the
17 TCE, however a higher result for PCE, dichloro-
18 ethane. And in May of 1998 we went back out with
19 the U.S. EPA, the Illinois Department of Public
20 Health and found a much lower level of all of the
21 contaminants. The highest level of TCE we found in
22 May of 1998 was I believe 22 parts per billion. So
23 you can see it's still above the five, but again
24 it's trending down from 90 to 40 and now we're

1 seeing it at around 22. However, one thing we did
2 see in May of 1998 was that the PCE was rising a
3 little bit. And you can see we saw at 7.2 -- I'm
4 sorry; 5.8 in '90 and '91 and in '93, '94 we found
5 it as high as 5. And in May we're finding it around
6 6 and 7 parts per billion. So the level of PCE
7 might be rising a little bit; however, all the other
8 levels are dropping. So that's giving us an
9 indication that maybe the contamination might be
10 moving through the subdivisions. And pretty much
11 what happened was we tried to get in touch with the
12 people who we thought were responsible for causing
13 this contamination. And they basically told the
14 Illinois EPA they aren't interested in helping out.
15 So that's when we went to the U.S. EPA, listen, we
16 can't get these guys to cooperate. Can we get some
17 federal dollars to maybe clean the site up or maybe
18 can you guys talk to who we feel is responsible? So
19 that's when we'll hand the crutch over to Mike
20 Ribordy.

21 MR. BLACK: And the presentation, too.

22 MR. RIBORDY: Hi, everyone. I'm with the
23 U.S. EPA. I will probably be the person you guys
24 want to talk to in the near future if you have any

1 concerns or questions. I am on the back of that
2 fact sheet as far as numbers go and addresses. If
3 you got computers, I got E-mail. So I'm probably
4 your point of contact from now on. Kind of to take
5 you up to what's happening currently -- and it's
6 pretty much -- I have little overheads, so I might
7 as well use them. You may not be able to read it,
8 but I will go through them.

9 I think pretty much everyone here knows
10 what the site is. You have all kind of seen the
11 plume figures. Most likely you live nearby it or it
12 actually is affecting your homes. So I probably
13 won't go into too much detail there. There's
14 been -- you just heard -- several investigations to
15 fully delineate the plume, find out how big is it
16 and also to try to find the sources. TCE and PCE
17 are the two constituents above MCLs, which is kind
18 of a health level that we're concerned about.

19 The general plume, and I hope -- you
20 probably can't see this, but here's (indicating)
21 your subdivision. The potential source of the plume
22 is in the opposite direction of groundwater flow.
23 You can't really see the roads, but we suspect it's
24 to the northeast. Any of these we can revisit. I

1 don't know how well you can see them. So it might
2 be better if you have specific questions that come
3 up afterwards that we can actually get the diagrams
4 out.

5 What's the problem? I think we all know
6 what the problem is. You guys have contamination
7 above MCLs, mainly TCE, PCE. And we did do a
8 preliminary risk assessment. We had a toxicologist
9 look at the data, and it's pretty much -- the
10 primary concern is the ingestion of TCE and PCE,
11 pretty much drinking water. There is exposure, too,
12 you know, bathing with the water, you know, from
13 inhalation and things like that, but far less of a
14 concern than drinking it.

15 As Jerry kind of mentioned the general
16 trend is things are going down, going down quite a
17 bit. It's hard to read these, but this (indicating)
18 is like 1990 and this (indicating) is the most
19 recent, the far right-hand side is like 1998. I
20 think it starts 0, 10, 20, 30, 40, 50, 60. So now
21 we're dealing with things generally around 20 or
22 less. But several homes are still above MCLs. And
23 once again that's that same figure there. So it
24 might be a lot easier just to come up here if you're

1 interested in looking at it closer.

2 One of the -- what I'm trying to cover
3 here is some of the questions people have been
4 asking, you know, what does this mean, what are the
5 health effects. If you notice the bold at the
6 bottom, there is a lot of uncertainty as far as what
7 does drinking low concentrations of these compounds,
8 what will it do. But I'll go into specific things.
9 Once again the main contaminants of concern based on
10 risk assessment was TCE and PCE and the 1,1-
11 dichloroethane. Drinking water is the primary
12 concern.

13 What happens when you drink TCE? Should
14 probably focus on this (indicating) line here,
15 "Drinking small amounts of TCE for long periods of
16 time may cause liver, kidney damage, nervous system
17 effects, impaired immune system function and
18 possibly impaired fetal development in pregnant
19 women, but the extent of some or all of these
20 effects is not yet clear." A lot of uncertainty,
21 but if I would put the other back on, a lot of this
22 information comes from studies on animals based on
23 high exposures, and you kind of extrapolate it down.
24 Well, what happens if we give low exposures over

1 longer periods of time? Possibly some of these
2 things could occur. That's TCE.

3 Some of the health effects from PCE.
4 Once again most of these things affect usually the
5 liver and kidney because that's pretty much what
6 processes the chemicals and the things in your body.
7 PCE is a potential carcinogen and I think possibly
8 TCE is, too, but that's inconclusive at this point
9 in time, but they suspect it possibly could be.
10 1,1-dichloroethane is pretty much the same, livers,
11 kidneys, but I just want to let you -- as far as low
12 concentration which we are definitely dealing with
13 at the Evergreen Manor Superfund -- not Superfund
14 site but contamination site, these effects are
15 definitely -- there's a lot of uncertainty involved
16 with that.

17 The source of contamination. We suspect
18 it is to the northeast. There's been some
19 uncertainty as far as who might be causing this.
20 The U.S. EPA is taking a new look at the potential
21 sources as far as contacting additional companies
22 and things like that. We have had some discussions
23 with some of the PRPs mentioned by the Illinois EPA.
24 So we're looking at various options as far as the

1 source goes.

2 Now probably what I hope is most
3 important to you guys is how are we going to go
4 about addressing the problem. In early 1998 the
5 U.S. EPA pretty much took over the site from the
6 state. Once again the purpose of the Superfund
7 program, which is the program I work with, is to
8 address the human health of the environment, and
9 that's what we're going to try to do.

10 The EPA response. Within the Superfund
11 program there are several ways to go about
12 addressing a problem. There is trust fund finance,
13 that's what Superfund comes from, removal actions
14 and remedial actions, which are response actions.

15 Removal actions: These are short-term
16 things, things that you can maybe do in the very
17 near future, and that's pretty much what you have --
18 you heard the engineering evaluation analysis
19 report, that's part of our removal action. You
20 know, it's usually things like surface drums, things
21 you can readily get rid of quickly. It might be
22 just securing a site putting a fence around it.
23 Also providing a temporary alternate source of
24 drinking water. That's what we're kind of looking

1 at here, but as a result of the short-term nature
2 there are limitations put on the removal program.
3 And there's a \$2 million limit and 12 months' length
4 of time that you can work within the removal
5 program. So there are limitations with that.

6 The other program that we do have is a
7 remedial program. And I'm probably kind of boring
8 you guys, but it's kind of important to understand
9 where we are at and what funding mechanism we're
10 trying to tap into because I think you will
11 understand the bigger picture more. So bear with me
12 here. Remedial actions are generally the long-term
13 actions. It can take several years. Usually some
14 type of investigation has to be done to eliminate
15 the problem. The state has helped considerably and
16 hopefully that phase can move along very quickly.

17 To tap into trust fund money the site
18 must be listed on the MPL. If you think -- it was
19 in June or so of this year you might have seen some
20 things about this site has been proposed to be
21 listed on the MPL, which would mean it would become
22 a Superfund site. I don't know what everyone's
23 general perspective is on that issue. But if we're
24 going to tap into trust fund money to do any type of

1 remedial action which is cleanup, it has to be
2 listed. There are also enforcement actions which is
3 pretty much finding someone responsible, getting
4 some kind of agreement or forcing that party to do
5 some kind of cleanup for you.

6 So those are the three mechanisms we have
7 here. And what we are trying to do is -- I really
8 don't want to limit us to only one pathway. I'm
9 looking at all of them. Right now we're
10 concentrating on once again the removal action.
11 This site is going through the listing process under
12 the remedial action. We will be investigating
13 additional source areas. We are in contact with
14 some of the PRPs. And we are expanding that search,
15 also. So right now we are three parallel tracks.

16 And so right now under the removal action
17 we are conducting nontime critical action. It
18 probably doesn't mean much to you, but just go with
19 it. And part of that is EE/CA which essentially you
20 have to do an evaluation of what can we use to
21 address the problem at a site. If you looked at the
22 fact sheet, we are looking at three different
23 processes, mechanisms. Two of them are filters, one
24 of them is municipal hookup. If you looked at the

1 fact sheet, you also saw there's a wide range of
2 costs for each one of these options. And right now
3 we are in the middle of a comment period for those
4 three options, and we ask for you guys' input, what
5 would you prefer, do you have any suggestions. It
6 may not be specific to the EE/CA, but if you have
7 any information regarding potential responsible
8 parties, send it in, E-mail or write, call. I'd
9 really appreciate it.

10 So that is -- the primary focus of this
11 meeting even though it's expanded far more is to
12 discuss those options. Here are those alternatives
13 once again that we've kind of gone over. There's
14 point-of-entry filters at the outlet of the well,
15 point-of-use which is kitchen faucet type filters
16 and the alternate water system. Given the levels at
17 the site probably all those options -- this is kind
18 of a comparison I think that was in your fact sheet.
19 It kind of goes through the different pros and cons
20 of all of them. All of them would be protective of
21 human health. The problem with the filters usually
22 is it's thought of a short-term, maybe couple years
23 type of remedy. And there's a possibility that that
24 might be enough since things are going down. But,

1 you know, that's something we'd have to look at.

2 Once again this is a brief thing of the
3 removal process. We just completed this. We're
4 looking at public comment. Once we get all the
5 public comments there will be an action memorandum
6 which pretty much will summarize our position and
7 respond to all comments. And then we'll implement
8 the removal action and you close out that part of
9 it. Now at the same time we're going to still be
10 going forward with the remedial action. There's a
11 possibility once the removal action is implemented
12 depending on what the decision is and how the
13 contamination pans out that might be the only thing
14 we'll need. But in case it's not I don't want to
15 get to that point and all of sudden say now we got
16 to do remedial action and start at Square One
17 again. So I'm trying to push everything forward at
18 the same time.

19 And finally what are some of the next
20 steps. Once again public comment period. I can't
21 overemphasize that, be it one line, two lines, you
22 know, your opinion. If you have comments, if you
23 have questions, send them in. And once the public
24 comment period is over we'll evaluate the

1 alternatives in light of the public input. Then
2 we'll prepare the action memorandum and then we'll
3 try to secure the necessary funding and implement
4 the selected alternative. That's essentially where
5 we're at now. Now would be a good time to take
6 questions.

7 MS. POPE: Sure. We're going to move
8 into our question and answer period. We do have
9 ground rules. We ask that you speak one at a time.
10 When you get up to speak, we ask that you say your
11 name. If it's a name that's not announceable or you
12 can't -- hard of spelling, please spell it out so
13 the court reporter can get a correct spelling of
14 your name.

15 MS. LOUGHLIN: I don't know that everyone
16 has a fact sheet that Mike was talking about. If
17 you could hold it up and maybe pass the sheet
18 around.

19 MS. POPE: Sure. We ask that you speak
20 clearly and to the point. Limit your comments of
21 questions three to five minutes. Please raise
22 issues pertaining to Evergreen Manor only and
23 respect each other. Now we do ask that if you have
24 a question -- if it's a long question, we will cut

1 you off at about three minutes and then let someone
2 else ask a question, and you can come back and
3 finish yours, but we do ask that you respect those
4 rules. Anybody can start off the question and
5 answer period at this point.

6 MR. RIBORDY: I just want to bring up one
7 thing, also. Some people have been confusing this
8 site with the Warner Electric plume. This is two
9 separate plumes. And if you're kind of confused,
10 you might want to look at that bottom map, but this
11 is not the Warner Electric plume.

12 MS. LEE: My name is Sherry Lee. We
13 already have a whole house carbon water filter. I'm
14 wondering how often does the carbon filter need to
15 be changed to make sure these chemicals are not
16 getting in my house. You state you can put in a
17 filter to keep the chemicals out, but you don't say
18 how often that -- that's a maintenance driven item.
19 It's not something you just put in once and it takes
20 care of itself. How often do I need to change that
21 to make sure these chemicals aren't in my water?

22 MR. RIBORDY: It's pretty much up to the
23 manufacturer, but in general in the ones I looked at
24 and investigated it's generally six months. The

1 whole house ones it might be up to a year because
2 it's a breakthrough component, usually two in a
3 series. One's in line and the other one is a
4 backup. So usually the first one takes out the
5 contamination. The water still goes through the
6 second one, but since there is no contamination
7 there it doesn't get used up. But if you do have
8 breakthrough on the first one, which means it's no
9 longer taking anything out, the other one is in line
10 to do it and they will yearly -- you should talk to
11 your manufacturer.

12 MS. LEE: It sounds stupid, but is it
13 possible for this thing to fill up and if it isn't
14 changed in time, to cause more damage by putting
15 more chemicals into the water that's built up inside
16 the filter?

17 MR. RIBORY: Yes.

18 MS. LEE: But you have no idea of
19 really -- all you can do is guess at six months, but
20 what if it's in three months and it fills up and you
21 don't know and it's spitting back more at you.

22 MR. RIBORDY: Now a lot of them actually
23 do have shutoff valves. They will automatically
24 shut off, and those would be the type if we do

1 implement filters we'd be using. We will be
2 responsible for the operation, the maintenance of
3 these filters. It's not like we'll hook them up, if
4 that's what's selected, and walk away and say hey,
5 you guys are on your own again.

6 MS. LEE: Okay. Even though it has a
7 12-month limit --

8 MR. RIBORDY: It's usually done by flow.
9 You can send so many gallons of water through these
10 filters and that's calculated based on, you know,
11 they might take a water sample or an estimate of
12 what the concentration of the contaminants are in
13 the water and they will do a calculation as far as
14 how much flow can go through that filter because
15 they know the capacity of how much the filter can
16 take out.

17 MS. LEE: Right. As far as we are -- if
18 we were elected Superfund, you said there was a
19 \$2 million, 12-month limit. That's what I'm saying,
20 as far as the limit on that, how will you maintain
21 that after that? Then it's up to us to maintain
22 that?

23 MR. RIBORDY: The federal EPA generally
24 does not do operation, maintenance. That would be a

1 state function. And before we selected any of these
2 filter remedies and anything that requires long-term
3 operation and maintenance requirement, that's being
4 longer than one year, we wouldn't pick that unless
5 we had state concurrence to take over. So the state
6 would take over that aspect of it.

7 MR. BLACK: That's a very good question.

8 MR. REIMER: Who is the suspected party
9 for contamination?

10 MRS. REIMER: There's more than one,
11 isn't there?

12 MS. LOUGHLIN: First of all, we're still
13 in the process. Since it was just referred to us
14 we're just starting some additional information
15 gathering and we're looking into additional
16 potentially responsible parties, but in the meantime
17 we did send general notice letters to the four
18 parties that were identified by the state as
19 potentially responsible, again not definitely
20 responsible at all. Basically the letter gives the
21 party -- it doesn't order them to do anything. It
22 just -- the letter just basically says we have this
23 problem. We think that there's a possibility you
24 may be responsible, and it gives them the

1 opportunity to step in and do the work. We're not
2 in a position at this point to order anybody to do
3 anything. But the letters did go out to the four
4 parties that were identified based on the state's
5 investigation.

6 MR. REIMER: Who is the four parties?

7 MS. POPE: What is your name?

8 MR. REIMER: Phil Reimer. Who is the
9 four parties?

10 MS. LOUGHLIN: It was Regal Beloit, Eagle
11 Lab, Waste Management and AAA. Waste Management
12 purchased the AAA. So that's how they're connected.
13 Those were the four that got notice.

14 MR. RIBORDY: The reason why we're kind
15 of uncomfortable doing that is it would be unfair
16 since it is now our investigation just to say fine,
17 we are not going to do our own looking. I mean
18 that's why we're reluctant just to name these people
19 because our investigation has not been completed.
20 We still have a lot of information -- requests we
21 want to send out. We definitely want people's
22 input. If you guys have any information about any
23 activity that might have been going on in that
24 direction of the groundwater plume, it would be

1 helpful, but to limit it in that respect, I don't
2 think it's fair at this point in time and that's --

3 MRS. REIMER: My name is Carrie Reimer,
4 and I just had a question. It's taken -- on that
5 removal action chart that you showed us it's taken
6 us nine years, a little over nine years to get to
7 this point. So I understand that we have to discuss
8 the three alternatives, but by the time we all voice
9 our opinion on the alternatives is it going to take
10 us another nine years?

11 MR. RIBORDY: No, you have 'til
12 December 10th. The removal process actually -- I
13 mean that's kind of the federal side. I'd probably
14 say I got on this site maybe in May, April. So it's
15 just started then.

16 MRS. REIMER: But we've been dealing with
17 this for nine years.

18 MR. RIBORDY: Right. And that is why I'm
19 kind of pushing at all fronts. Hopefully with this
20 EE/CA something can happen. It kind of depends on
21 what option is selected. If a municipal hookup is
22 selected, they can maybe implement that if
23 everything goes smoothly maybe next summer, next
24 building season. A final hookup would not be

1 anticipated probably 'til December where everyone is
2 hooked up and operating smoothly. The filter takes
3 a lot less time. Once again if everything goes
4 smoothly, it can probably be early next year, in
5 January or so. That's not limited to weather. So
6 hopefully the removal action will be short-term,
7 soon. And that's why we're pushing that. But at
8 the same time, you know, it doesn't necessarily mean
9 that it's going to be the final remedy, what happens
10 with the removal action. The objective is to get
11 people off contaminated water. That's our objective
12 right now.

13 MRS. REIMER: I would really like to know
14 what everybody else's feelings is on this. I
15 personally want the long-term effect which is North
16 Park water, because what they're saying -- the
17 residential treatment point-of-entry, that's just
18 putting a filter system in our house, which is years
19 of maintaining and there would be the dollar amount,
20 the cost of it would keep adding up. The same with
21 the treatment point-of-use. That's just for the
22 kitchen sink. That doesn't take care of the bathing
23 and whatever else. To where I personally would like
24 to see a permanent solution which would be North

1 Park water come in so we can all refinance in our
2 homes or sell our homes without any questions, any
3 problems because we could just basically say it's
4 done; it's taken care of. But I am interested to
5 see what everyone else wants. That's what I want,
6 because it says right in the thing it eliminates all
7 risk. It's long-term. There's no added cost once
8 North Park water comes in. Where all the other ones
9 just say reduced risk. It doesn't eliminate it. It
10 only reduces it at a very slow pace. And I would
11 like to see --

12 MR. RIBORDY: Well, point-of-entry would
13 eliminate all risks. The one -- that's where all
14 the water -- it would treat your bathing water and
15 everything like that. The point-of-use which is the
16 kitchen filter one, if you use all your drinking
17 water from there it would eliminate your drinking --
18 your ingestion component of it. By eliminating just
19 that component of it it would probably be protective
20 as far as EPA's criteria, which is one in a million
21 risk, it would be below that criteria. But please
22 write something in if you have a strong opinion.

23 MR. GRUNZ: One, you say that the trend
24 of these contaminants is going down. Can you

1 project a sort of year at which point it would fall
2 within the maximum allowable levels?

3 MR. RIBORDY: It's kind of funny because
4 that did come up today during the availability
5 session, and it's really hard to do partly because,
6 you know, a lot of times you see that -- the trends
7 in those graphs, kind of shows you what's going on.
8 Oftentimes with groundwater contamination you will
9 see those trends plateau. And you will get far less
10 reduction after long periods of time. It's just not
11 coming out. I have no idea where that will happen,
12 if it even happens. And one thing going in your
13 guys' direction you have a good sandy aquifer which
14 does help things pass through. So it would be -- I
15 think everyone's gunning that it will pass through
16 and everything will be fine in several years, but
17 no -- someone has brought up it's been nine years
18 already and you're still above MCLs, at least some
19 of you are. I wouldn't even want to speculate.

20 MR. CHURCH: The second part of that
21 question was if one lives within the plume as it's
22 imaged, you know, you've got a problem. If you live
23 outside the plume or near the plume, what does that
24 mean, that it's trickling down a corridor that's

1 very firm, or it's just not a noticeable problem
2 outside or a notable problem outside of the plume.
3 The question is just outside of it, what's your
4 risk?

5 MR. WILMAN: That's a good question.
6 From the sampling that we did, the Illinois
7 Department of Public Health and the Illinois EPA
8 did, we sampled all the homes, a very large portion
9 of the homes in those four subdivisions, and what we
10 found was a very definite area of contamination
11 where one house would be contaminated slightly above
12 MCLs.

13 (Discussion held off the record.)

14 MR. WILMAN: Anyway, as I was saying,
15 what we found was one home could have levels
16 slightly above the MCL, and if we walked across the
17 street to sample the home across the street, they
18 may not have any contamination at all. What we
19 found was a very definite narrow plume going through
20 the four subdivisions, and that is -- you know, some
21 of your wells we sampled eight or nine times. Some
22 of your wells we only sampled two or three times.
23 Some we may not have gotten a sample at all, but a
24 very definite trend remained in that very small

1 corridor, and your question, sir, what would be your
2 risk if you were outside of that area. If we found
3 levels that were below the MCLs, the maximum
4 contamination level set by the U.S. EPA under the
5 Safe Drinking Water Act, we would consider that safe
6 for human consumption. If you had a level above the
7 MCL, that would be a concern and we would hope to
8 put a filter of some sort on your house or as the
9 U.S. EPA also proposed a permanent source of
10 drinking water.

11 MR. BLACK: Just to give you a little bit
12 more sense of this, again it's the geology here that
13 helps us to be relatively sure and I mean have a
14 high sense of certainty that there isn't a wandering
15 plume here. It's not waving back and forth under
16 the ground. It's basically going in a straight line
17 forwards toward the river and we don't have any real
18 expectation that it's going to change course
19 suddenly because we have evidence over a period of
20 about eight years of sampling that it hasn't done
21 so. If anything, it's narrower than it was five
22 years ago or eight years ago when it first was
23 sampled.

24 MR. CHURCH: You have actually monitored

1 the plume itself?

2 MR. BLACK: By looking at which houses
3 are affected, which wells are affected and noticing
4 that the levels in the affected houses are in a
5 smaller zone now than it originally was.

6 MS. POPE: What is your name, sir?

7 MR. CHURCH: My name is Bill Church, and
8 last year I put on a watering system in my home and
9 have reversed osmosis water which cleaned my
10 drinking water up mainly is what it does, and it
11 was -- I don't know the price of it. I would have
12 to call my supplier tomorrow and see what I did pay
13 for that, but if anything became of this, would I be
14 reimbursed of what I invested in that?

15 MR. RIBORDY: No.

16 MR. CHURCH: No, I wouldn't. What
17 happens? I did it early and got clean water and
18 that's fine. If that's the case, I am glad I did
19 it.

20 MR. RIBORDY: And you have peace of mind.
21 Exactly. Unfortunately, I think that was
22 erroneously reported in one of the newspapers that
23 that could be reimbursed.

24 MR. CHURCH: But that was a wrong

1 statement. I read it someplace.

2 MR. RIBORDY: It was incorrectly stated.

3 MR. CHURCH: This lady in the front row
4 here -- I myself would prefer the North Park public
5 water even though I have clean water now to drink,
6 but what would be the cost per household for
7 something like that? Do you got an estimate of
8 that?

9 MR. REIMER: What's the cost to us to get
10 it corrected?

11 MR. OPPERMAN: You're going to eat the
12 cost of putting in a filter and maintenance from --

13 MR. RIBORDY: Possibly, if we couldn't
14 get a responsible party to agree to it.

15 MRS. REIMER: Only if we can find the
16 cause.

17 MR. RIBORDY: Otherwise we would -- the
18 funds would eat the cost --

19 MR. OPPERMAN: Would there be a water
20 bill from North Park water?

21 MR. RIBORDY: You would be billed monthly
22 to hook -- the hookup you would not be billed for.

23 MR. OPPERMAN: You would maintain the
24 carbon filter, but you won't maintain our monthly

1 water bill?

2 MR. RIBORDY: Right, and that's pretty
3 much because everyone pays their own water bills.

4 MR. OPPERMAN: I moved out here to not
5 have a water bill. That's why we've got a well.
6 Generally what's happened --

7 MS. POPE: What's your name?

8 MR. OPPERMAN: Karl Opperman. I also
9 have another question, too. Does this dissipate in
10 the air? Do the chemicals, PCE and TCE, do they
11 dissipate when exposed to air?

12 MR. WILMAN: Yes, they do dissipate. The
13 one thing about it is if you run your bath water
14 and -- let's say you don't have a filter on your
15 house, so you are running your bath water and if you
16 have levels of contamination detectable, what will
17 happen especially if you're running hot water, you
18 will have those chemicals that are in the water.
19 Originally they will become a gas and they will fill
20 up your bathroom. If you have a very big bathroom,
21 they will keep expanding to the size of your
22 bathroom. If you have your door open, then those
23 gases will go out.

24 MR. BLACK: If you have your vent fan on,

1 they will go out the vent fan.

2 MR. WILMAN: They will continue to spread
3 and become less and less concentrated in a room.

4 MR. LANGLEY: Jerry Langley. So you are
5 saying if we change to North Park water, that we
6 would have a monthly water bill. A question I have
7 is I'm assuming that they use chlorine in their
8 water. So we're exchanging one for another, and
9 secondly, I want to know what's involved with the
10 well abandonment. What has to be done in the home?

11 MR. RIBORDY: As far as I know the state
12 would require the well to be abandoned. I think it
13 would be either us or whoever is in charge of doing
14 the hookup would pay for that.

15 MR. BLACK: If there were a hookup to
16 public water supply and that required the
17 abandonment of the well, that would be paid for as
18 part of that process.

19 MR. RIBORDY: Correct. I think the only
20 cost to the residents as far as a water hookup would
21 be your monthly bill.

22 MR. DAHLSTRAND: My name is Kent
23 Dahlstrand. My first question is, when the decision
24 is made on one of the three options, it's going to

1 be singular? There won't -- when you decide on one
2 option, everybody -- that will be the option for
3 everyone? You're not going to have water for some,
4 a filter at the input or a filter on the sink?
5 There's not going to be a choice?

6 MR. RIBORDY: I don't foresee that
7 happening, but all options -- you will be given a
8 choice, either if you want it or you don't. I mean
9 we can't force you to take a filter. We can't force
10 you to get hooked up. So I'm -- it will not be
11 forced upon each one of your homes. But if you're
12 in the affected area, you will be given an option.
13 Hey, we'll put a filter on or we'll hook up to the
14 municipal water supply. Here's what's going to
15 happen, we're going to fill your well, so on and so
16 forth.

17 MR. DAHLSTRAND: Just as a statement, the
18 gentleman who was talking about reverse osmosis,
19 from the people that I have talked with unless I
20 misunderstood, that's not a viable process for
21 eliminating the VOCs in the water. It has to be
22 carbon activated. So that reverse osmosis isn't
23 doing anything to eliminate this problem here,
24 unless I'm wrong or misunderstood.

1 MR. CHURCH: Does anybody else know
2 anything about that concern? I thought it did.

3 MRS. REIMER: I agree with Kent. That's
4 what I thought I had read, that it didn't take the
5 chemicals out.

6 MR. RIBORDY: No one's brought reverse
7 osmosis --

8 MR. DAHLSTRAND: It is a filtering
9 system, but I believe it takes out minerals.

10 MR. BLACK: Minerals, takes out minerals
11 and nitrates, things like that. That's not what
12 we're talking about here.

13 MRS. CHURCH: My name is Betty Church and
14 I would like to say what I know about what they told
15 us. We still could have 2 percent of bacteria in
16 our water.

17 MR. RIBORDY: Possibly. That is not a
18 Superfund issue. We are not here to address the
19 bacteria aspects of it. If you're saying that's
20 another reason to go for the municipal hookup, yeah.

21 MR. OPPERMAN: Again will this plume
22 expand and contract with rainfall? The aquifer,
23 level, it's governed by rainfall throughout the
24 years. Will it expand with heavy rain and contract

1 with minimal rain? So these folks that are on the
2 edge, will they be involved at some times and not at
3 other times?

4 MR. WILMAN: As far as expanding and
5 contracting, going from two houses to four houses, I
6 can't answer that. We have seen a difference in the
7 levels on a seasonal basis and I would assume that
8 that's based on infiltration. The more infiltration
9 you have, the more dilution you have. So if
10 originally maybe in the summer we didn't have much
11 rain, you might see 20 and then all of a sudden that
12 fall we got a ton of rain, your levels may drop
13 some. That's a possibility. As to the shrinkage
14 and expanding I can't say. I would assume that that
15 is a possibility though.

16 MR. OPPERMAN: Also to the depth of the
17 well, some of us are probably at 60 feet, some of us
18 are probably at 70 and 80 feet. Does the depth of
19 the well matter?

20 MR. WILMAN: The contaminants we're
21 dealing with we call them sinkers, meaning they are
22 heavier than water. And so up near the source,
23 wherever it may be, you know, obviously they
24 probably had some tanks or something right on the

1 surface of the ground. The contamination would be
2 very shallow at that point. The further you get
3 from the plume, normally what we call sinkers, these
4 chlorinated hydrocarbons, the contaminants will
5 sink. As to my understanding most of the
6 residential wells are around 100 feet deep. Is that
7 correct, Roger?

8 MR. RUDEN: I don't think so. I think
9 they're right in the range that he was talking
10 about, 60 to 70 feet.

11 MR. OPPERMAN: I think around here 75
12 feet or 80 feet you're getting into what is called
13 the quicksand, the liquid sand. It will pass
14 through the filter of a pump.

15 MR. WILMAN: What I was getting to was
16 that we have seen contamination at various levels,
17 and forgive me for not having specifics on this,
18 there was one resident who tried to drill a deeper
19 well. I don't remember the specific depth, however
20 he still or she still ran into contamination.

21 MR. BLACK: That was a new house that was
22 built and they knew the problem was there. So they
23 went deeper and they still got some contamination.
24 It was maybe a little less than the neighbors, but

1 it was still there.

2 MS. OLSON: Jill Olson. How long ago was
3 that?

4 MR. BLACK: That would have been maybe
5 five years ago, three to five years ago.

6 MR. SMITH: My name is Tim Smith.
7 Trichlorethane is a hazardous chemical trackable by
8 all your EPA standards, correct?

9 MR. BLACK: Yeah.

10 MR. SMITH: Out of the four suspected
11 people has anyone shown up with a severe loss of
12 trichloroethane that was delivered on site as
13 compared to what was taken off site?

14 MR. BLACK: Actually the kind of tracking
15 you're talking about doesn't happen with the kind of
16 precision that you're talking about. Waste disposal
17 these days with the advent of the Resource
18 Conservation Recovery Act regulations waste disposal
19 is required to be tracked as suggested with
20 manifest, but it isn't precise enough to be certain
21 that somebody hadn't lost a few gallons or even many
22 gallons out of a tank. And in addition to that it's
23 entirely possible that the source we're talking
24 about predates all of those regulations that didn't

1 go into effect until the 1970s. So we may be
2 talking about a source that could be 40 years old.
3 We don't know. I mean if we knew exactly where it
4 came from and when, we'd be happy.

5 MR. SMITH: The source we're speaking of
6 is not simply a couple hundred gallons of
7 trichloroethane.

8 MR. BLACK: It could be. Yeah,
9 absolutely could be.

10 MR. SMITH: That high that early?

11 MR. BLACK: Could be a barrel, a drum,
12 absolutely, because we are not talking about huge
13 numbers. The numbers here as Mike and Jerry have
14 pointed out, that the concentrations here are much
15 lower than the concentrations that were present in
16 the plume that we have attributed to Warner Electric
17 Brake. The plume over -- that hit Hononegah Country
18 Estates here, that plume had as many as 5,000 parts
19 per billion of trichloroethane. Here in the
20 Evergreen Manor area the levels have never gone
21 above 90 in the numbers that we have seen in any of
22 our samplings. So we are talking about a much, much
23 smaller amount of contamination than was found at
24 Warner.

1 MR. REIMER: Does the U.S. EPA plan on
2 cleaning the plume up?

3 MR. RIBORDY: It will depend.

4 MR. REIMER: What about the Illinois EPA?

5 MR. RIBORDY: No. The question is --
6 right -- will we clean it up. If we do, it would be
7 on the remedial process. That's the type of removal
8 action, because obviously that takes a long time to
9 do. Probably the only alternative to do if we did
10 select it -- if our analysis indicated that there
11 was an impact to the environment, where the
12 environment would be impacted would probably be
13 along the Rock River where the contaminants is
14 coming to the surface, we would then contemplate
15 doing some type of action to fix the problem. Right
16 now it's hard to say. We've not gone to that step
17 where we're doing an additional investigation which
18 is part of the remedial process. I mean right now I
19 want to -- most of my concentration is on what can
20 we do to get you guys off the water. I mean -- I
21 just think that's --

22 MR. BECKER: Larry Becker. I'm not sure
23 if I'm in the plume directly or not. If you're not,
24 and I'm in Tresemer Estates, do I still get to hook

1 up to North Park water?

2 MR. RIBORDY: You most likely would not.

3 MR. BLACK: If you're in Tresemer, you're
4 not in the plume.

5 MR. RIBORDY: Yeah. I think that
6 probably the fact sheet -- I didn't have a good
7 delineation of the subdivisions which is why I was
8 more conservative when I put all the subdivisions in
9 there. I mean historically I think Tresemer was
10 sometimes mentioned.

11 MR. BLACK: It was investigated.

12 MR. RIBORDY: I kept it in there just to
13 make sure I had all the bases covered.

14 MR. BECKER: Also I wondering what will
15 the people benefit by finding out who has been
16 contaminating this?

17 MR. OPPERMAN: Peace of mind. That's
18 about all we can do. Nobody's going to step up and
19 say hey, I'm the one that did it. Absolutely not.

20 MR. DAHLSTRAND: Didn't they class action
21 Warner?

22 MR. RIBORDY: I have no idea.

23 MR. DAHLSTRAND: I believe they did.

24 Once they do have a definite party, then there's the

1 option of going after somebody.

2 MR. OPPERMAN: It could be three
3 generations removed.

4 MR. RIBORDY: That's part of the --

5 MR. CHURCH: Bill Church. I was
6 wondering given the numbers there of 5,000 versus 90
7 what is most likely to happen to us then with the
8 guidelines here of what to do? Will you be looking
9 at that and say you take the cheap way out and give
10 us something on the end of the tap rather than the
11 hookup with the North Park public water? Would you
12 look at that and take any consideration or what?

13 MR. RIBORDY: You're kind of comparing
14 Warner to this?

15 MR. CHURCH: I mean what do you do from
16 here? You look at that and say well, these people
17 are hardly getting any trichloroethane or anything,
18 so why should we try to go for the maximum and get
19 North Park.

20 MR. RIBORDY: A lot of that depends on
21 the funding. Obviously if \$2 million does not
22 become available, a municipal hookup would not be an
23 option.

24 MR. CHURCH: When would you know

1 something like that? If this was available, when
2 would you --

3 MR. RIBORDY: Hopefully by the end of the
4 year. I mean once again we are going to have to
5 look at the comments and see what people want.
6 We'll have to talk to management, talk to -- under
7 the removal action, a municipal hookup, what would
8 happen, it would take a little longer time, because
9 essentially your site would get thrown into a pot
10 against a bunch of other sites. That's how that
11 program happens. Once you go over I think it's
12 \$150,000 or so like that, you get grouped into a
13 lump sum pot, and what they do is they rank all the
14 sites and fund until the money runs out. Next year
15 you get into the pot, fund it. When the money runs
16 out, the other sites, they don't get addressed.

17 MRS. REIMER: So it could be two years or
18 nine years down the road.

19 MR. RIBORDY: Right. So a lot of it
20 depends on what does the funding look like.

21 MR. CHURCH: So at the end of the year
22 you will let us know whether there is enough money
23 for this or that or that out of the three. If there
24 is \$200,000 left, then we could get the residential

1 treatment point-of-entry. Would you know that and
2 tell us that?

3 MR. RIBORDY: Right. We'll come up with
4 some type of -- it's that action memorandum which is
5 kind of the decision document.

6 MR. CHURCH: I'll get that through the
7 mail from you then, or do we have to call you?

8 MR. RIBORDY: It will be announced.
9 There will be an article. I'm really not sure how
10 that usually --

11 MS. POPE: Usually what we do is it's
12 announced. We can send another fact sheet through,
13 just an update letter or something letting the
14 community know what's going on.

15 MR. RIBORDY: We'd do at least a fact
16 sheet thing.

17 MR. CHURCH: If the majority, say
18 80 percent, wanted North Park public water and you
19 could only get \$300,000, well, so what, they might
20 want it but that's out of the question because you
21 might be on the low end of the totem pole.

22 MR. RIBORDY: Maybe immediately. I am
23 not saying no, but I'm saying under the remedial
24 program maybe you can get it. If the problem

1 doesn't seem to be going away, there will have to be
2 a long-term remedy. Filters, they are not a
3 long-term remedy. So if that's the case, the backup
4 option would be a municipal water system. It's kind
5 of the default option long-term.

6 MRS. REIMER: Because if I remember right
7 like eight years ago when we tried forming a Roscoe
8 safe water committee just from the corner of
9 Hilander down to Francis Lane, it was going to cost
10 just \$200,000 for North Park water just to go from
11 there to there.

12 MR. VankLEEF: Neil Vankleef. I'm
13 wondering about the demographics of the correction
14 area. Are you just talking within the plume itself,
15 or like my house is like two houses away from the
16 edge of the plume, would we be considered for
17 corrective action, or are we -- how do you decide
18 that?

19 MR. RIBORDY: That's a hard one. Part of
20 it depends on the type of remedy.

21 MR. REIMER: It would be an engineering
22 factor, wouldn't it?

23 MR. RIBORDY: If you do a municipal water
24 system, because you got to follow the streets and

1 you need a loop, there is probably a good chance if
2 you are on the border and the loop comes by your
3 house they'd probably hook you up. That's a
4 decisional thing once it's selected. There is a
5 nice loop that does go around which is helpful here.
6 I will say that. I mean you guys do have some of
7 the most ideal situations if you are going to do a
8 municipal hookup. You don't have annexation issues.
9 You don't have to be annexed by anyone. A lot of
10 times that blows up and becomes a big issue. North
11 Park public water system does have a closeup hookup.
12 So you wouldn't have to lay that much extra pipe to
13 hook up into the system. So there are some positive
14 things going for you guys in that respect. So I
15 mean if you are going to do it, it's probably one of
16 the better situations you have for doing it.

17 MRS. REIMER: Back to something that
18 gentleman said back there, he said compared to --

19 MR. RIBORDY: Borderline, it's hard to
20 tell. Filter-wise, I have a groundwater expert -- I
21 mean a hookup expert who works with me. He would
22 help me on the decision.

23 MR. LAING: Yeah. I was wondering if you
24 have known about this for eight or nine years, why

1 wasn't it made a little more publicly known so
2 somebody like me who purchased a house in '95
3 wouldn't have bought one right in the middle of the
4 plume?

5 MRS. REIMER: It was really high, Kevin.
6 There was a group in the neighborhood that tried
7 forming the Roscoe safe water committee. I
8 personally beat the streets for weeks and months.
9 And I have been talking to Stan Black for a very
10 long time, but then we were waiting on Illinois --
11 or I mean the U.S. EPA to come through with
12 something. We've been just sitting waiting.
13 Basically what we were told from -- well, at the
14 time we thought it was Warner Electric, and we had
15 went there and we were -- I personally took it as
16 pretty much well, if you can afford a good lawyer,
17 then go for it. Well, there was only a handful of
18 us that was willing to try to do anything and we
19 couldn't afford the big top lawyers. So we didn't
20 get anywhere.

21 MR. BLACK: In terms of public
22 information back in 1993, in December of 1993 this
23 particular fact sheet was produced by the Illinois
24 EPA and was actually hand-delivered to every home in

1 all four of the subdivisions that were potentially
2 affected. So if the folks who sold you the house
3 didn't convey to you the fact that there might be a
4 problem, that isn't our responsibility. We tried to
5 make sure you knew.

6 MS. LEE: But that's not true, because we
7 were told -- because I had my letter from the public
8 health department that because it was under whatever
9 your big number was that they didn't have to
10 disclose it because it wasn't a big enough number to
11 regulate a mandate of whatever your -- I can't
12 remember how it went. They didn't have to disclose
13 it. We tried to sue. We tried to go back. And
14 they wouldn't let us. They said it wasn't a big
15 enough number, so you didn't have to disclose it.
16 But yet now that you have put this down on paper and
17 said Superfund and said these words now I have to
18 disclose it and I have to tell the next person who
19 buys my house. So you can get screwed but you can't
20 screw the next guy. It totally doesn't seem fair.

21 MRS. REIMER: We only had been in our
22 house for one year when they threw this in our laps.

23 MR. LAING: If we get to a remedy point,
24 are we going to be given options and some kind of a

1 referendum and vote on these options, or are you
2 just saying this is what you need and it's coming?

3 MR. REIMER: There should be some kind of
4 voting process to get a general idea of what these
5 people want.

6 MR. RIBORDY: And that's what this public
7 comment period is for. That's why you guys should
8 be making known your views.

9 MRS. REIMER: This is my big concern.
10 The gentleman said a little while ago about that the
11 other neighborhood that had 5,000 and okay, our
12 highest level is 90, and your philosophy is saying
13 basically, which I understand, it gets thrown in a
14 hat. So okay, does it get thrown in a hat that says
15 oh, they're minor and we don't even get thrown in
16 the hat that's at a higher level? So like he said
17 are we just going to be thrown in a hat that's so
18 minor that it's just going to keep going on and on
19 and with you hoping that eventually the plume will
20 just wash it out of our way and will shut us up?

21 MR. REIMER: That's the way it's been for
22 nine years.

23 MR. RIBORDY: It depends on who you are
24 up against. I have no idea of the site you are up

1 against. The one thing that does go for you and
2 does generally pump sites up is that people are
3 drinking contaminated water.

4 MRS. REIMER: Our children are bathing in
5 it and have been.

6 MR. RIBORDY: That's a biggie. It does
7 tend to bump sites up. If you have just a soil
8 problem and I have a site that's been waiting for
9 years and it's just soil with high levels, it's
10 going to wait.

11 MS. WOODY: Nancy Woody. I know that you
12 are encouraging comments on one of the three options
13 we're wanting to choose, but correct me if I'm
14 wrong, isn't the bottom line we aren't making the
15 decision?

16 MR. RIBORDY: You will not be making the
17 ultimate decision, but you will have an input into
18 it.

19 MRS. REIMER: Our input is tonight or
20 filling this out and mailing it in?

21 MS. POPE: By December 10th.

22 MR. RIBORDY: Right. Send them in. Make
23 your point known. It's like voting. If everyone is
24 saying we want a municipal hookup --

1 MS. WOODY: But the bottom line is is
2 that that's not what we may get.

3 MR. RIBORDY: It's far more convincing if
4 the community comes and says this is what we want.
5 It's a lot harder to ignore that, not necessarily
6 ignore --

7 MS. WOODY: The bottom line is it's not
8 our choice.

9 MR. RIBORDY: Right. But if all of a
10 sudden no one says anything, it'll be so much easier
11 to say fine, we'll just do filters then. At least
12 make yourself known. That's all I'm saying. I
13 can't guarantee you will change anything or affect
14 the decision, but there's a good chance it could.

15 MR. GRUNZ: Will these be mailed out to
16 every home, address within the plume, or are they
17 only available here?

18 MR. RIBORDY: No, they should have been
19 mailed out to everyone, but our mailing list is
20 probably from '95. Like we said a lot of the legal
21 officials who are no longer there --

22 MS. POPE: If you didn't receive a fact
23 sheet in the mail, please sign the sign-in sheet
24 because it updates the mailing list.

1 MRS. REIMER: Grab a fact sheet on your
2 way out and be sure to fill it out or our voices
3 won't be heard.

4 MR. BLACK: Janet, correct me if I'm
5 wrong, won't there be -- at the end of this meeting
6 won't you be putting at least some fact sheets into
7 the repository so that people can take those if you
8 or your neighbors don't have the fact sheet, if you
9 were not on the mailing list? Then you can get one
10 of the fact sheets and can make your comments and
11 you can also send in a note to Janet asking her to
12 add your name to the contact list or have your
13 neighbors -- add their names. Anyone who is just
14 interested. You don't have to be in the plume to be
15 on the contact list. If you're interested, you can
16 be added.

17 MR. REIMER: How many people are affected
18 by this?

19 MR. RIBORDY: During the heyday back in
20 1994 when it was at its worst, 208 homes. I don't
21 know if that includes empty lots or not. So there
22 might be a few more, because at this time it looks
23 like there were some empty lots at that point in
24 time.

1 MR. OPPERMAN: A couple of things, and I
2 just lost what I was going to say. We're just a
3 smattering of the 208 families in this room. We had
4 a mailing list that had my name on it and address.
5 I have been there for 15 years now. New folks that
6 are just moving in and the people that would have
7 just come in since 1995, how about going to the post
8 office and getting a list of all the addresses in
9 these subdivisions, they should have that, and send
10 it occupant or to whom it may concern or attention,
11 Mr. and Mrs. Homeowner or something like that?

12 MS. POPE: Most of the time if we don't
13 have a name, we will just send it to resident. So
14 whoever is there even if it's not the person that
15 was originally there, they would get the fact sheet.

16 MR. RIBORDY: But that is a good point.
17 It should be a name or current residence. Just so
18 it doesn't get returned.

19 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: A lot of times it
20 just goes in the wastepaper basket.

21 MS. POPE: And that's unfortunate.

22 MRS. REIMER: But what they did with the
23 fact sheet, they did do that with this, because I
24 have a friend that lives over in Tresemer that's not

1 affected by it at all and he did get one.

2 MR. DAHLSTRAND: Just so I get a picture
3 in my mind of this, when it comes down to them
4 making a decision on a remedy, the correct fix, the
5 way to do this is to get the water from North Park,
6 that's going to be the long-term solution, but --
7 is that the way they are -- are they going to say
8 that well, we're going to try to get that at some
9 point in time if we have to go to the quick fix now,
10 and then put us on that list, and then when the
11 money does become available to do that regardless of
12 whether they have the filter systems on there, they
13 are going to be shooting to put that water supply in
14 there permanently, or could they say that the filter
15 system is their solution and leave it at that and
16 not put us on the list, keep moving us on the list
17 up until it's our turn?

18 MR. RIBORDY: If it's going to be -- down
19 the line it would probably not be part of the
20 removal action. I mean removal -- we're trying to
21 get things done quickly, you know, a year at a time,
22 two years at a time. It would have to happen soon.
23 That kind of scenario would be -- you would get the
24 hookup under a more remedial action, which would

1 take several years down the line. So that could
2 happen, yes.

3 MR. DAHLSTRAND: If they could give us
4 the filters and say that's the end of it, cut us
5 loose --

6 MR. RIBORDY: If the contamination goes
7 away and there's no longer contaminants above
8 concern --

9 MR. DAHLSTRAND: Well, nobody knows what
10 that plume is going to do. That's just all
11 speculation. Nobody knows what that water is doing
12 underneath there.

13 MR. RIBORDY: What I'm saying is -- let's
14 say filters are selected. You get filters now. We
15 continue monitoring. We continue along the remedial
16 process which is doing an investigation and things
17 like that. There is hoops you have to jump through.
18 You have to justify the next step. So is there
19 still a problem there? If there's still a problem,
20 yes, we'd have to find some permanent solution. And
21 most likely that would be the municipal hookup.

22 MR. SMITH: I was wondering -- you have
23 four suspected contaminators. Why are they not
24 being asked to split this cost equally among all

1 four companies and cover this? Somebody did it.
2 And there's no way -- you are saying there is no way
3 to track trichloroethane back years ago. I
4 understand that. But there is now and apparently
5 somebody was mishandling it.

6 MS. LOUGHLIN: We are meeting with the
7 four continually, and we are trying -- I mean the
8 best result would be they'd pay for it. That would
9 be the best result, but we don't have the proof that
10 this particular four did it. We are also
11 simultaneously investigating and sending
12 information, requests trying to get any information
13 we can about any other sources. We are -- the best
14 solution would be we get the parties to pay for it.
15 We have not given up on that. Oftentimes PRPs -- I
16 mean if there's any potential possibility that they
17 caused it or maybe just to be good corporate
18 neighbors, whatever, they do sometimes take on a
19 project. And then if they do an investigation and
20 they find out who did it and look at them, they can
21 go after that party. You don't always have to have
22 the party -- which company caused it. If they are
23 willing to do it and then take that investigation on
24 themselves, which they sometimes do.

1 MR. SMITH: I guess I understand that by
2 their sampling they have narrowed it into a very
3 small area, that north of that is not -- the water
4 is not contaminated until it's past a certain point,
5 and it's good all the way down to a certain point.
6 I mean that's just like a handful of people pointing
7 fingers all at one spot. It has to be -- if that's
8 the case, it has to be one of those four particular
9 sites.

10 MS. LOUGHLIN: Not necessarily,
11 particularly since it could have been a small amount
12 of contaminants as I understand it. There are other
13 possibilities, but we are -- we're not just
14 waiting --

15 MR. RIBORDY: Within that direction there
16 are numerous companies which could be. Part of --
17 the investigation part of it you also strengthen
18 your case by process of elimination. So if you're
19 looking at everybody, there's always going to be the
20 suspicion that it's the other guy. We may not be --
21 right, you got to cover all of your bases.

22 MRS. REIMER: I mean the process of
23 elimination, there's not that many to eliminate.
24 Shouldn't we be getting closer to the source? I

1 mean if we are talking four, if we're talking eight.
2 We are not talking that many businesses. Shouldn't
3 we be getting closer and applying pressure to these
4 people?

5 MS. LOUGHLIN: We are.

6 MRS. REIMER: How long have we been doing
7 that?

8 MS. LOUGHLIN: We have been meeting with
9 them for a few months.

10 MR. RIBORDY: I mean the federal EPA
11 hasn't had this that long. We're talking April, May
12 when it was assigned and people started working on
13 this. And I will tell you, finding a PRP was not
14 the No. 1 thing. It was trying to get those other
15 processes which would probably more likely lead to
16 something to your benefit than negotiating with
17 PRPs, because even if you get somebody to commit to
18 something, you still have to get a formal consent
19 decree, something in place. You got to get the work
20 plans done. It's not like okay, we are going to do
21 it. Tomorrow we are out there.

22 MRS. REIMER: It might be faster than
23 throwing our neighborhoods in a hat. It might get a
24 faster response.

1 MR. RIBORDY: As I said before we are
2 working on all levels.

3 MRS. REIMER: You are getting kind of
4 defensive. None of us by no means mean to attack
5 you, but it's our houses and it's our children that
6 are bathing in it.

7 MR. RIBORDY: I know. As I said I'm not
8 trying to work at one level and I'm only focusing on
9 this removal thing, we are going to deal with this
10 and then 10 years down the line if something fails
11 here, maybe I will start looking at PRPs. Then
12 20 years down the line okay, we're finally getting
13 something done. I mean no, that's not the
14 objective. I am just trying to say we are working
15 on parallel efforts.

16 MS. POPE: We'll take these last three
17 questions and then we'll move into our comment
18 period.

19 MS. BARS: Peg Bars. We've lived out
20 here 20 years, and I just want to point out to some
21 of you who may be newcomers that even when the
22 contamination was determined in the other
23 subdivision, even when the water was installed no
24 blame has ever been accepted by the company that was

1 charged with that. So please do not focus on who
2 did it. The important thing is that we have clean
3 water, that we have safe drinking water and bathing
4 facilities. The issue is not who did it. We need
5 to get good water up here. And that's the point.

6 MR. REIMER: A permanent solution.

7 MRS. REIMER: Get it fixed. One of your
8 charts said something about we don't know and yeah,
9 I suppose nobody does know and can prove it. And I
10 don't even want to say it out loud, but yeah, one of
11 my kids, they end up with cancer. It's one thing if
12 I do, but not them, not them. They're too young to
13 have to do this. And yes, I would never be able to
14 prove it was that, but in my mind will believe that
15 it is that.

16 MR. GRUNZ: I was wondering, has there
17 been any study of increased rate or incidents of
18 these illnesses that are associated with these
19 contaminants? For example, simply put are people
20 getting ill? Is there an increased rate --

21 MR. REIMER: Is there a study being done?

22 MR. GRUNZ: -- of the expectable
23 incidents?

24 MR. RUDEN: I guess the answer to your

1 question directly is no, there's no incidents of
2 people getting ill that we can put our finger on.

3 The ATSPR is the trichloroethane registry. They are
4 trying to look at a large group of people throughout
5 the entire country that have been exposed to real
6 small amounts of TCE over a long period of time. It
7 takes a long, long time to get this kind of
8 information. And now they don't have it yet.

9 There's been no illnesses that I know of associated
10 over at Hononegah Country Estates. There is no
11 cases of illness that I know of down in southeast
12 Rockford, and again we're talking about short-term.
13 And my experience is only nine years on this site,
14 more on others.

15 MR. CHURCH: Bill Church, and what I'm
16 concerned about tonight is on the local news over in
17 the vicinity of the Rockford area there was future
18 home buyers, Evergreen Manor and Olde Farm
19 subdivision, they're out of bounds. They are not
20 going to come in there. They will not come in. And
21 the people that are wanting to sell now and got for
22 sale signs up and the ones that later on want to
23 step up to a larger home they are not going to be
24 able to sell either or they'll take a \$10,000 at

1 least drop in the price. So they need some
2 immediate action, you know, not a temporary little
3 thing to put on a faucet because the people still
4 ain't going to buy. They are scarred right now from
5 this, and if they don't get that major hookup with
6 North Park water, their homes are going to stay less
7 valuable than anyplace else.

8 MRS. REIMER: Not only our kids' health
9 but, yeah, that's our investment. My husband and
10 I -- it was our first home. That was our
11 investment. We were just talking about going and
12 looking and buying because our kids are getting
13 older, we're outgrowing the house. In September
14 when that hit the Rockford Register Star and I
15 called my husband crying because I looked across the
16 street and right on the bike path was a news camera
17 scanning our house. I said forget it. We might as
18 well not even go.

19 MR. CHURCH: I have been there for 20
20 years in that subdivision from the time it first
21 went in and I didn't step up to a larger home 'til
22 we got older. I'm retired now. In a few years I
23 keep thinking I'll move to a warmer climate, but
24 it's like the stock market when you bet on the news

1 and this stuff went out, it's like it took -- well,
2 a 20 percent drop, you know. And that will hurt a
3 lot of people.

4 MR. REIMER: It's more than just a water
5 issue here. It really is.

6 MRS. REIMER: It's not your fault. We
7 don't know whose fault it is, and like she said who
8 cares whose fault it is. We just really need your
9 help in getting this fixed.

10 MR. CHURCH: If you try harder to help us
11 out, we would certainly appreciate it.

12 MS. POPE: At this point we have our
13 comment period. In this period you can make your
14 comments in the form of a question, statement or
15 whatever have you, but we will not respond to those
16 comments and questions at this time. They'll be
17 answered in a responsiveness summary in the
18 transcript that will be here in about four to six
19 weeks. So if anybody who wants to start their
20 comments at this time, you may. Please limit your
21 comments to two to three minutes. You can start
22 now, whoever.

23 MR. OPPERMAN: Karl Opperman. Again I
24 have listened to everybody in the room. I was kind

1 of leaning to the whole house filter, also. I'm now
2 pushing towards the North Park water department
3 solution. Economically I would like to move and
4 retire sometime in the near future, three, four
5 years down the road, one or two years down the road.
6 I would like to be able to sell the house for what
7 it's worth, not what the government thinks it's
8 worth when they have to start coming in and
9 purchasing from the love canal but not -- this is
10 not a love canal. This is not even Hononegah
11 Estates. If there's anything we can do to further
12 drive North Park water into the subdivision, I'll be
13 all for it.

14 MRS. REIMER: My last comment I guess
15 would be -- like I said before we really need your
16 help. We need you as our spokesperson because you
17 are here now to go back to your bosses and whoever,
18 and even though we're a small group of people we are
19 still humans and we're talking children and
20 grandchildren and mothers and fathers and daughters
21 and sons, and we need your help in getting this
22 fixed. And yeah, there is that hope that maybe the
23 plume, it's going to be gone in another two years,
24 but we don't know that. That's like the big concern

1 was TCE and now the PCE has come about. So what's
2 going to come about in two more years or 10 more
3 years. And I, too, wanted to sell my home just
4 because we needed a larger home, and I'm stuck there
5 with not only a smaller home, but a water problem
6 that could be causing cancer to my children.

7 MR. CHURCH: Bill Church. I, too, think
8 that the North Park water system is our only hope to
9 regain what we did have before the news hit tonight,
10 or maybe before you mailed out those things. And it
11 would help the people that did come in. They would
12 know it was safe and they would buy homes. The
13 people who wanted to leave, they could get their
14 correct price for their home, and they could move to
15 wherever they like and other ones could come in.
16 And the old saying is if these come, others go,
17 whatever, but it would be good for all of them.

18 MS. POPE: Any comments?

19 MS. CARR: Jan Carr. I don't think
20 anybody can put a price on good health. And I feel
21 that no matter what it would cost, what anybody
22 would have to do you can't put a price on good
23 health and well-being.

24 MS. LADEIN: I'm Barb Ladein. I just

1 want to thank everyone for coming. I spent a lot of
2 time from 2 to 5 and we got some answers. We gave a
3 lot of information. And it sounds like they're
4 going to keep us abreast of what they can do. We
5 appreciate that.

6 MS. POPE: Any more comments?

7 MR. GADEEN: Terry Gadeen. I just have a
8 quick comment. I think listening to everybody here
9 I, too, think that for a lot of reasons, economic
10 and health-wise a long-term solution would be
11 hooking up to water, but a question I would have
12 that could be addressed in the future here is if
13 that is not an alternative for us -- or excuse me,
14 if that does become an alternative for us, that does
15 become the way this is going to go, is there some
16 way that we can get information about perhaps how
17 long it could take to look -- so we could look at
18 perhaps looking at short-term solutions for
19 ourselves? Because I don't want to sit around
20 necessarily for two or three years waiting for a
21 water hookup if I can, you know, put in some
22 short-term solutions of my own.

23 MR. CHURCH: It states on the form here
24 it takes about nine months if you look at the

1 diagram here.

2 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: After it's
3 approved.

4 MR. CHURCH: Yeah. December the 10th or
5 whatever, the end of the year.

6 MS. LEE: Sherry Lee. I wasn't going to
7 talk because I know I am going to start crying. So
8 bear with me. I'm very pregnant. I have a whole
9 house care water filter. I bought my house in the
10 late end of '93. It was already installed. It's
11 old. When we bought that house, those people told
12 us oh, we just got that for whatever, what have you.
13 Just change it every year or two. And now after
14 talking to you I have been sitting here wondering
15 what I'm ingesting into my body because we haven't
16 changed it. And I would just as soon have permanent
17 water brought into my home so I don't have to worry
18 about it anymore. Thank you.

19 MS. POPE: Any more comments? I would
20 just like to remind you about the public comment
21 period. It ends December 10th. So we encourage
22 you, please, in your comments like Mike said letting
23 us know something is better than if you don't say
24 anything. Then people just do what they want to do.

1 But as a community, as being united, you can stand
2 more louder than just one or two people just getting
3 up saying anything. So I would encourage everyone
4 to do that.

5 Also we would like to thank you for
6 coming out tonight. We know that it is not an easy
7 subject, but I would like to thank you personally.
8 You have been great. I have heard a lot of horror
9 stories about you all.

10 MR. BLACK: I never told them anything
11 bad.

12 MS. POPE: I would like to thank everyone
13 for coming out. Again we will be around until
14 9 o'clock. If you have some individual questions,
15 we will be glad to stay and answer some of those
16 questions.

17
18 (Adjourning at 8:40 p.m.)

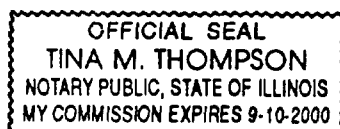
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C E R T I F I C A T E

I, TINA M. THOMPSON, Certified Shorthand Reporter, Registered Professional Reporter and Notary Public, do hereby certify that I am a court reporter doing business in the city of Rockford; that I reported in shorthand the above hearing on November 17, 1998; and that the foregoing is a true and correct transcript of my shorthand notes so taken aforesaid.

I further certify that I am neither counsel for not related to or employed by any of the parties to this action and that I am not a relative or employee of any counsel employed by the parties hereto or financially interested in the action.

Dated at Rockford, Illinois, this 10th day of December, 1998.



TINA M. THOMPSON
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